IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The paragraph beginning at page 11, line 24 has been amended as follows:

The hardness and the strength of the proximal coil wire 11 is adapted to be smaller than those of the proximal coil wire 10, and the rigidity is adapted to be lower than the proximal coil wire 10, so as to secure the flexibility and the adaptability of the guide wire at the distal side. The proximal end portion of the ~~proximal coil wire 11~~ proximal coil wire 10 is formed into a receiving end portion 15 having larger (winding) pitches than the remaining portion. The distal end portion of the tapered portion 13 is inserted into the receiving end portion 15, and the both portions 13, 15 are secured and connected by brazing or soldering. The connection may be performed either before or after fitting the coil wires 10, 11 onto the core wire 1. The length L3 of the connected portion (the receiving end portion 15, or the insertion of the tapered portion 13 into the receiving end portion 15) is normally 2% to 40%, preferably, 2% to 17%, and more preferably 3% to 7% of the whole length L4 of the distal coil wire 11. If it is below 2%, the connecting strength between the coil wires 10, 11 is not sufficient, and if it exceeds 40%, the flexibility and the adaptability of the distal coil wire 11 is deteriorated. The

distal coil wire 11 is integrally formed of a material, which is radiopaque (low in X-rays transmissivity), that is, high in photographability by radioactive rays (X-rays). Accordingly, by utilizing radioactive rays such as X-rays, the position of the distal coil wire 11 can easily be observed from the outside of the body. Included in such materials is, for example, platinum-nickel alloy (for example, 90% of platinum and 7% of nickel).